

# Merced County

## COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PARTNERSHIP

Fiscal Year 2020/21



## PUBLIC SAFETY REALIGNMENT PLAN



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## Executive Committee of the Community Corrections Partnership

- ◆ California Penal Code Section 1230(b) requires each county to establish a Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) and specifies the membership that comprises the CCP. By statute, the current Executive Committee consists of the Chief Probation Officer as Chair, the Sheriff, the District Attorney, the Public Defender, Court Executive Officer of the Merced Superior Court, a local Chief of Police, and the department head of the Human Services Agency. On August 25, 2020, the Board approved for Genevieve Valentine, department head of Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, to be added. Although Ms. Valentine was unable to participate in the strategies for the 2020/2021 Fiscal Year due to her late appointment, the Executive Committee looks forward to future collaborative meetings with her.
- ◆ Aligned with the requirements stated within California Penal Code Section 1230.1, the Executive Committee has voted and approved the strategies for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 and respectfully submits these recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

Amanda Toste, Court Executive Officer, Merced Superior Court

Kimberly Lewis, District Attorney

Vern Warnke, Sheriff

Yvonna Brown, Director, Human Services Agency

Gary Brizzee, Chief, Los Banos Police Department

Vincent Andrade, Public Defender

# ADULT SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PARTNERSHIP (CCP)

This sub-group of the CCP meets quarterly and welcomes all members of the CCP, concerned citizens, county service providers, and community-based organizations. Serving as official CCP meetings, the Adult Services Committee of the CCP complies with Brown Act requirements, including public posting in County Administration locations and on the Probation Department’s website. The meetings serve several functions, including but not limited to the following:

- Program data/outcomes
- Opportunity for service providers to give updates
- Information on related community activities
- Notices concerning program transition celebrations
- Consultation from county service providers
- Opportunities for the public to provide feedback concerning Merced County CCP programs

## Committee Members and Guests

Kalisa Rochester (Chair)	Probation Department
Lisa Maples	Probation Department
Joel Daffron	Probation Department
Mariela Gutierrez	Probation Department
Zach Robertson	Probation Department
Christina Flores	Probation Department
Lindsey Johnson	CEO Office
Reyna Espinoza	Department of Workforce Investment
Ray Perez	GEO
Monika Grasley	Lifeline CDC
Jane Van Vloten	Merced Superior Court
Toula Eccles	Merced County Office of Education
David Carr	Merced Rescue Mission
John Hendon	Sheriff’s Office

# THE TRIDENT CENTER

Enhancing public safety through a multi-disciplinary effort utilizing evidence based practices for client rehabilitation.

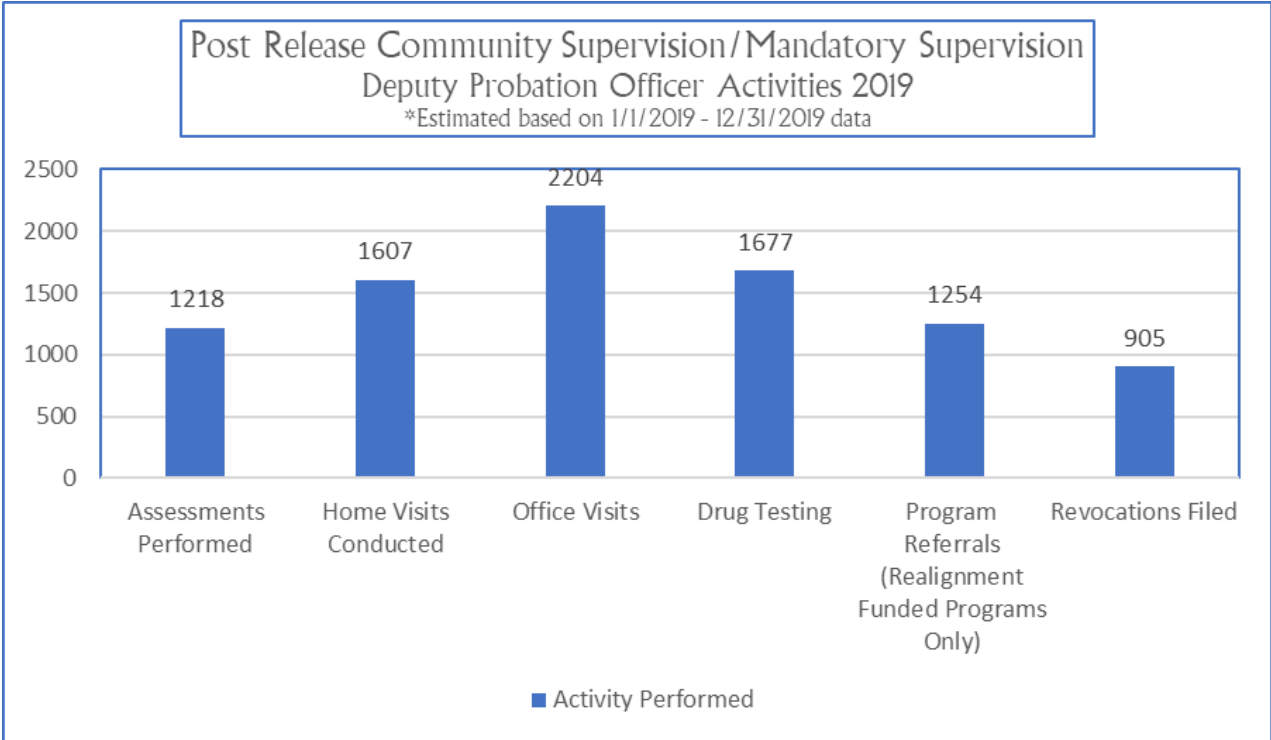


The Trident Center is located in the central area of the city of Merced and is occupied by employees of the Merced County Sheriff's Office, Merced County Probation Department, Human Services Agency and Behavioral Health and Recovery Services. Through evidence-based practices, this multi-disciplinary effort employs a three-pronged approach focused on public safety, reduced recidivism through rehabilitation, and alternatives to custody. Deputy Probation Officers assigned to the Trident Center provide intensive supervision of Post Release Community Supervision and Mandatory Supervision Populations. Deputy Probation Officers administer the STRONG Risk/Needs assessment tool to determine each client's criminogenic risk factors which can be changed through application of culturally, developmentally and gender appropriate interventions, teaching new skills and building on the client's strengths to mitigate criminality.

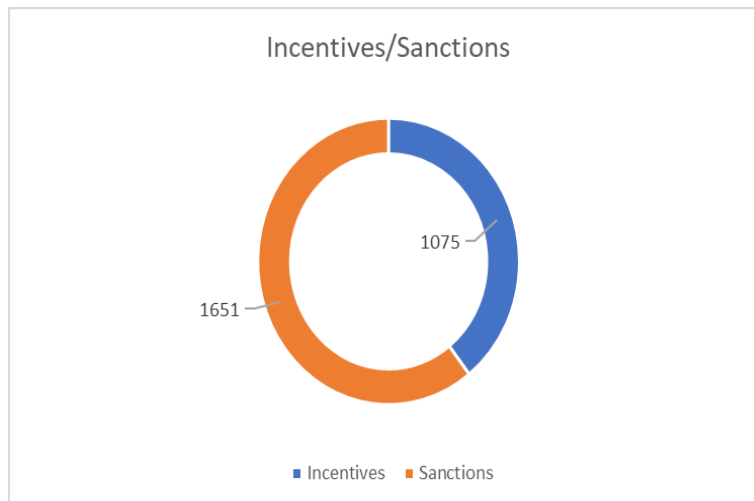


# Merced County Probation Department

The Probation Department is responsible for the supervision of clients released from county jail on mandatory supervision or released from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation on Post Release Community Supervision. Probation Officers refer clients to programs/services designed to reduce recidivism and crime, along with enforcing terms and conditions of release. Probation Officers enforce terms and conditions of release by performing searches, conducting home visits, preparing revocation reports, writing new law violation reports, drug testing and monitoring progress in treatment during the length of supervision.



# SANCTIONS AND INCENTIVE MATRIX



Deputy Probation Officers utilize a Response Matrix to enhance community safety and to promote behavior change. PRCS and Mandatory Supervision clients who are found to be in violation of their terms and conditions of release are subject to flash incarcerations which consist of up to 10 days in custody as an alternative to long-term sentences.

In addition to usage of flash incarceration, officers are also utilizing alternatives such as GPS monitoring and community service referrals.

Clients who are making positive progress toward completion of case plan goals are given incentives. These incentives typically consist of verbal affirmations, gift cards, refreshments, delivery of meals during the holiday seasons.

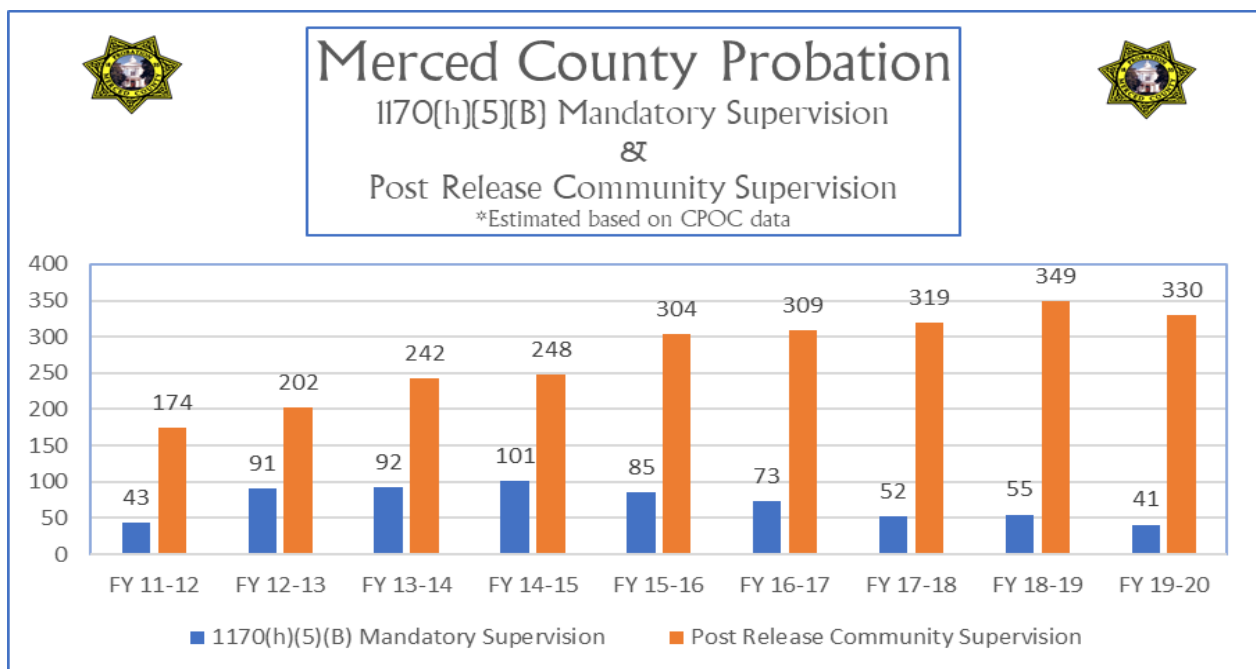
# Post Release Community Supervision/ Mandatory Supervision

## Post Release Community Supervision—Section 3451 of the California Penal Code

- ◆ This form of supervision is provided to clients released from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to the jurisdiction of a county agency, pursuant to the Post Release Community Supervision Act of 2011. In all 58 counties, the Probation Department is the designated agency responsible for post-release supervision. CDCR must notify counties of an individual’s impending release one month prior, if possible. Once an individual has been released on PRCS, CDCR no longer has any jurisdiction, requiring all revocations with commitment time to be served in local county jails.

## Mandatory Supervision — Section 1170 (h) (5) (B) of the California Penal Code

- ◆ This felony sentencing law is intended to reduce the California state prison population by allowing non-violent, non-serious and non-sex offenders convicted of certain felony crimes to serve their sentences in local county jail, rather than state prison. Unless the Court finds, in the interest of justice, that it is not appropriate, the Court shall suspend a portion of the sentence for a period selected at its discretion. The portion of the sentence that is suspended is known as mandatory supervision. During the period of mandatory supervision, the client shall be supervised by the Probation Officer in accordance with the terms, conditions, and procedures generally applicable to persons placed on probation.

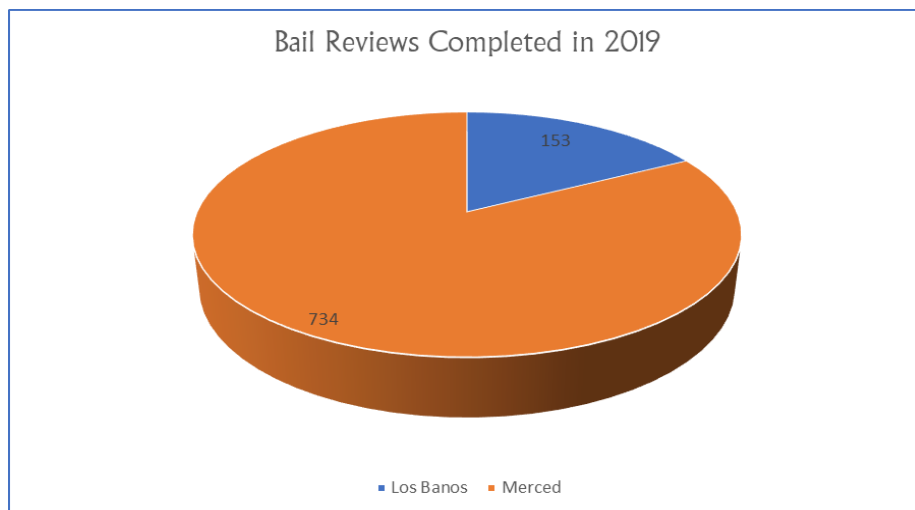




# Pre-Trial Services Division



The Probation Department and Sheriff's Office have joined forces to provide pre-trial services since the inception of 2011 Realignment. With bail reform a strong topic in California, it is believed we can do more to better our pre-trial system in Merced County. Last year, two probation assistant positions were funded in order to provide more timely assessments to the court and to provide a level of, "monitoring" to individuals who have been released on their own recognizance (O.R.). Both positions have been filled and the allocation by the Executive Committee in the 2018-2019 Strategies to remodel Courtroom II, allowed for additional office space for a dedicated pre-trial services division.



# Merced County Sheriff's Department

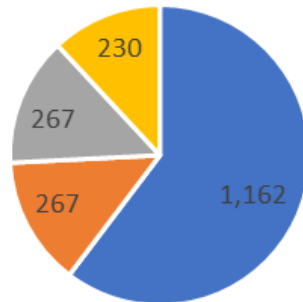
## Alternatives to Incarceration Programs



The Merced County Sheriff's Department operates the Alternatives to Incarceration Program. Sheriff Deputies are assigned to supervise individuals who have been released to the community, in lieu of Incarceration, at various stages of the judicial process, from Pre-Trial to the Sentencing Phase.

### Alternatives to Incarceration

\*\*Estimated based on 1/1/19 - 12/31/19 data



- Supervised Release (GPS Program)
- Pre-Trial Release Supervision
- SRT Day Reporting Center
- Jail Re-Entry Program

# Merced County Sheriff's Department Jail Utilization



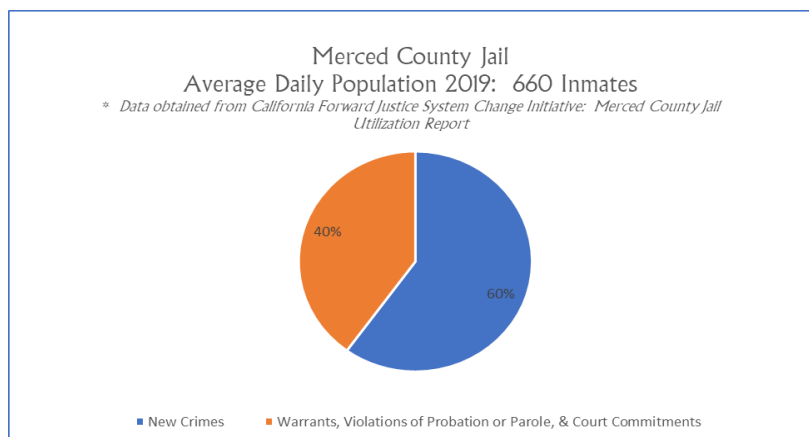
The Merced County Jail operates two Type II jail facilities. Type II jails are designed to hold individuals pending arraignment, awaiting trial and serving a sentenced jail commitment.

In 2019, a total of 240,783 jail bed days were used in Merced County. Of those days, 144,818 or roughly 60% were based on new crimes and 95,965 jail bed days or 40% of total bed days were based on warrants, probation, or parole violations, & court commitments.

Program Enhancements from 18/19 Fiscal Year Strategies added a clinician to be assigned to the jail to:

1. Provide targeted case management services for incarcerated individuals and coordinate to provide continuity of services to assist them with their reintegration to the community.
2. Provide substance abuse assessments to the court, upon request, for individuals being considered for residential treatment.

The clinician was hired and placed at the jail during the 19/20 Fiscal Year.



# JAIL RE-ENTRY PROGRAM



GEO Reentry Services offers in-custody treatment programs for our clients nearing the end of their jail commitments. Starting treatment before clients are released back into the community facilitates consistency in treatment and helps them be better prepared for their transition to the community. By assessing client risks and needs and initiating programming during incarceration, the transition to a community-based program is seamless and behavior change is expedited. A total of 230 clients were served during calendar year 2019.



Total Cost: \$456,151

Programs and Services

# Leadership for Life

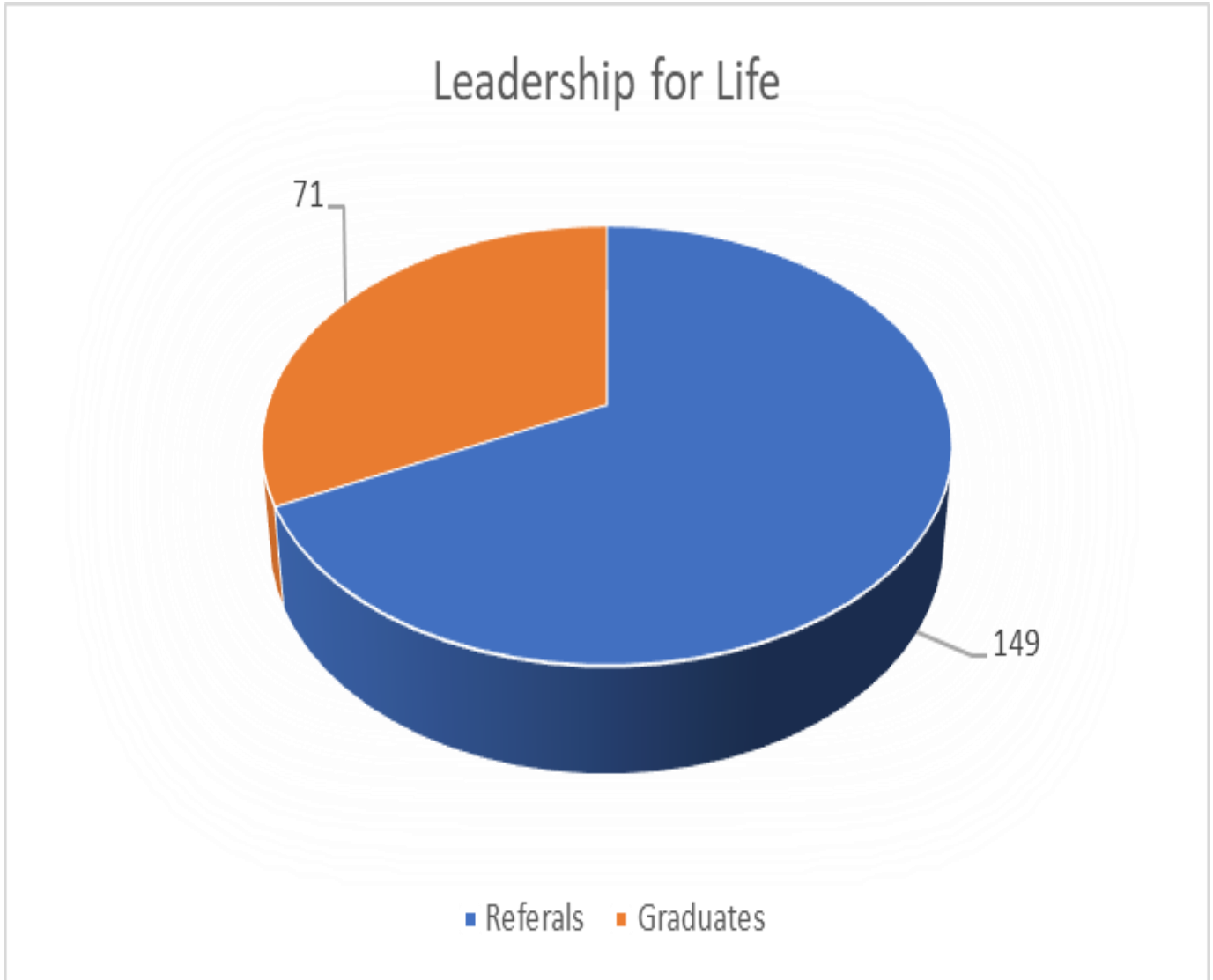


The Leadership for Life Program was developed by the Merced County Human Services Agency and is facilitated by employees of the Probation Department who were once system involved. Facilitators provide an array of one-stop-shop services such as:

- ◆ Life Skills
- ◆ Cognitive Behavior Therapy
- ◆ Education and Career Assessments
- ◆ Referrals to Homeless Assistance
- ◆ Section 8 Housing Assistance
- ◆ General Relief/Food Stamps
- ◆ Parenting Skills
- ◆ Assistance with Obtaining Driver's Licenses
- ◆ Post Graduate Mentorship, as needed

# Leadership for Life

Last Fiscal Year, a total of 149 clients were referred to the Leadership for Life Program. Of those clients, 71 graduated. For the 2019 calendar year, a total of three cohorts were completed.



Total Cost: \$124,905

Programs and Services

# Day Reporting Center (DRC)

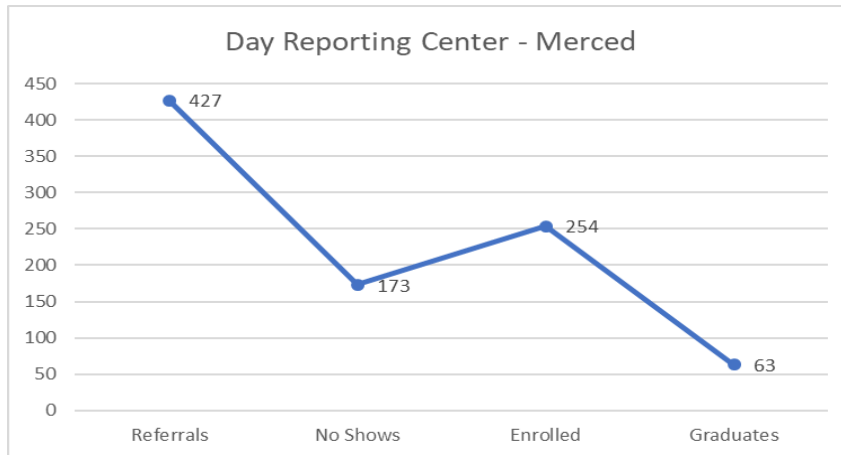


The Day Reporting Center is designed to offer a variety of services to clients under the jurisdiction of the Merced County Probation Department or the Merced County Sheriff's Department.

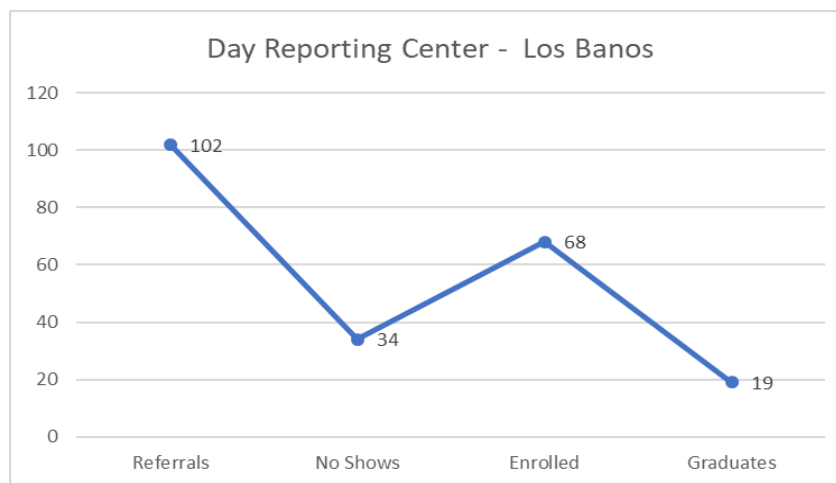
- ◆ Assessments
- ◆ Behavior Change Plans
- ◆ Case Management
- ◆ Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- ◆ Moral Reconciliation Therapy
- ◆ Outpatient Substance Abuse Education
- ◆ Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment
- ◆ Anger Management
- ◆ Parenting Classes
- ◆ Trauma Informed Services
- ◆ Employment Readiness
- ◆ Batterers Intervention Classes
- ◆ Relapse Prevention
- ◆ Aftercare
- ◆ Breathalyzers
- ◆ Random Drug Testing

# Day Reporting Center

## Merced / Los Banos



Due to a significant reduction in AB 109 revenue, the Executive Committee of the Community Corrections Partnership gave direction to reduce the cost of contracted service providers. One of the providers is the Geo Group. The Geo Group provides Day Reporting Center (DRC) services, re-entry services and GPS services. Because Probation has refurbished a modular building in Los Banos to provide similar services as the Day Reporting Center, the decision was made to close the Los Banos DRC site, not only for cost reduction but due to poor participation and graduation rates. The original contract for both sites totaled \$849,000 per fiscal year. Cost savings from the site closure totaled \$153,000, for a total contract of \$696,000 for FY 2020/21.



**Total Cost: \$696,000**

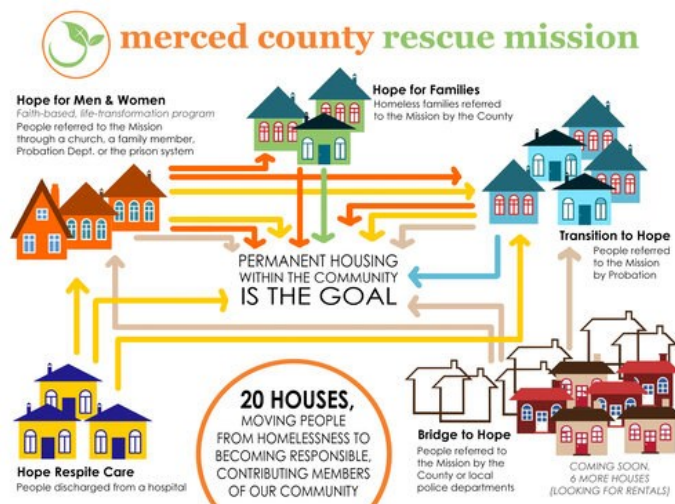
Programs and Services



# Transitional Housing

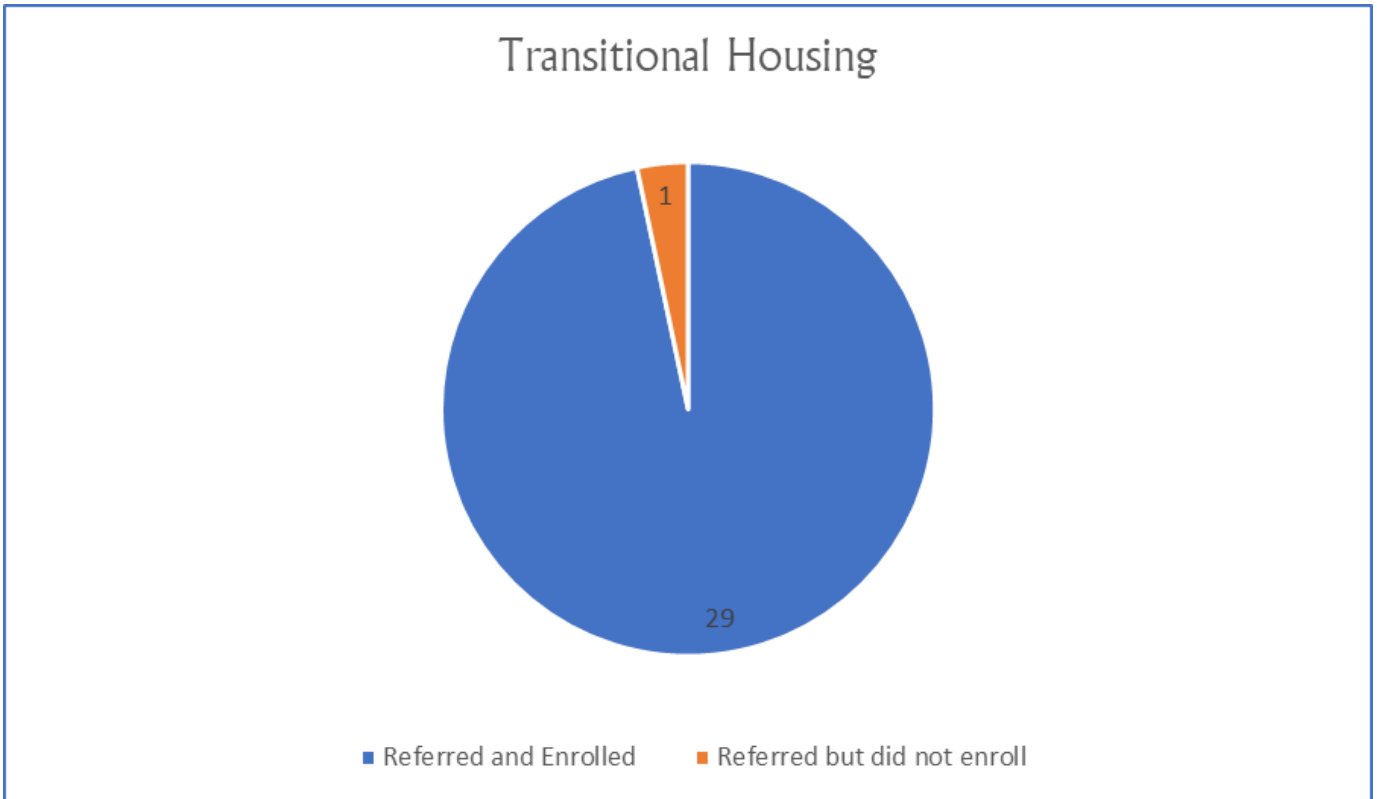


The Transition to Hope Program, operated by Merced Rescue Mission, provides our clients with a safe, supportive, sober living environment while fostering independence, allowing each resident to pursue work and educational opportunities.



Programs and Services

# TRANSITIONAL HOUSING




- Approximately 97% of clients who were referred enrolled in the Transition to Hope Program
- The Transition to Hope Program provides eight (8) sober living environment beds per fiscal year equating to 2,920 bed days per year.

Total Cost: \$100,000

Programs and Services

# THE PHOENIX PROJECT

MERCED COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION



**Aurmone Harris**

Graduated with his GED and then completed Professional Truck Driving at Advanced Career Institute.

"I've never graduated from anything before. I was lost before I became a part of Phoenix Project. Now I have my GED and my Class A."



The Phoenix Project provides clients with vocational and aptitude assessments, personalized career action plans, assistance with GED/High School Diplomas, vocational training, college enrollment—including financial aid, one-on-one mentoring, and other supportive services.

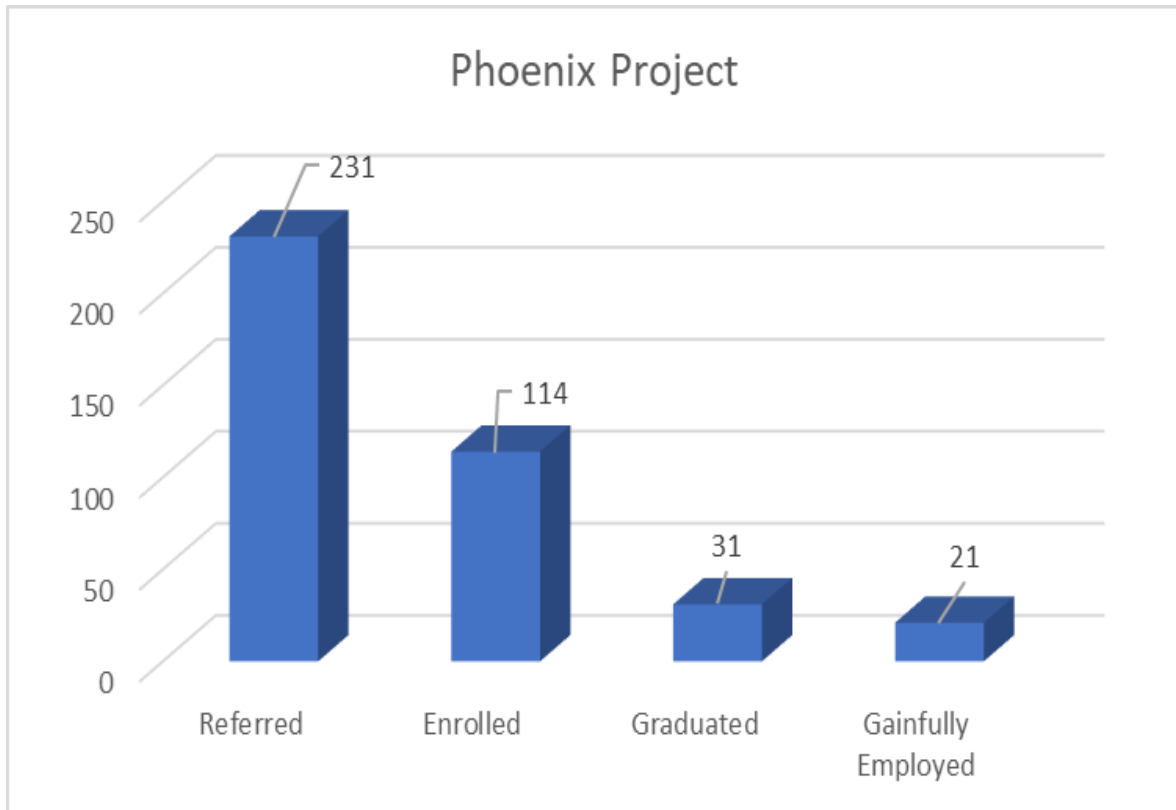
Vocational Services Include:

- ◆ Professional Truck Driver
- ◆ Welding Technology
- ◆ Industrial Maintenance Mechanic
- ◆ Automotive Technology
- ◆ Electrical or Programmable Logic Controllers
- ◆ Medical Assisting
- ◆ Computerized Technology
- ◆ Medical Office Administration
- ◆ Accounting
- ◆ Construction Technology
- ◆ Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor

Programs and Services

# THE PHOENIX PROJECT

MERCED COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION



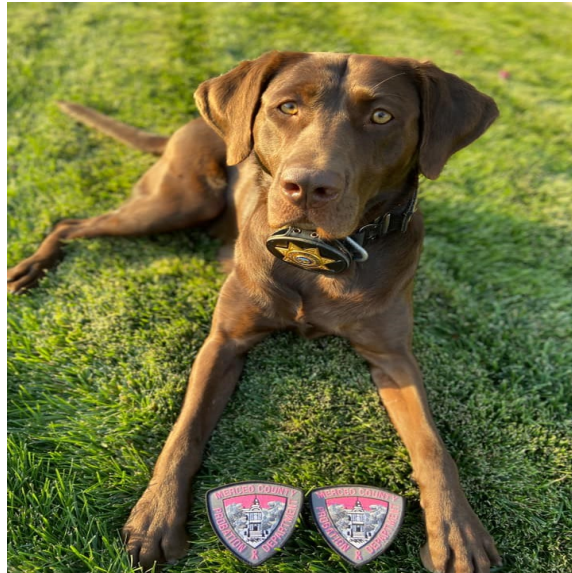
Similar to the reduction in contract cost for the Day Reporting Center through the Geo Group, MCOE's contract was reduced by \$125,000 resulting in a total contract price of \$250,000. Of note, MCOE was forced to reduce services to clients during the 19/20 Fiscal Year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and it is anticipated the continued need for reduction will continue.

**Total Cost: \$250,000**

Programs and Services

# K-9 PROGRAM

## SAGE



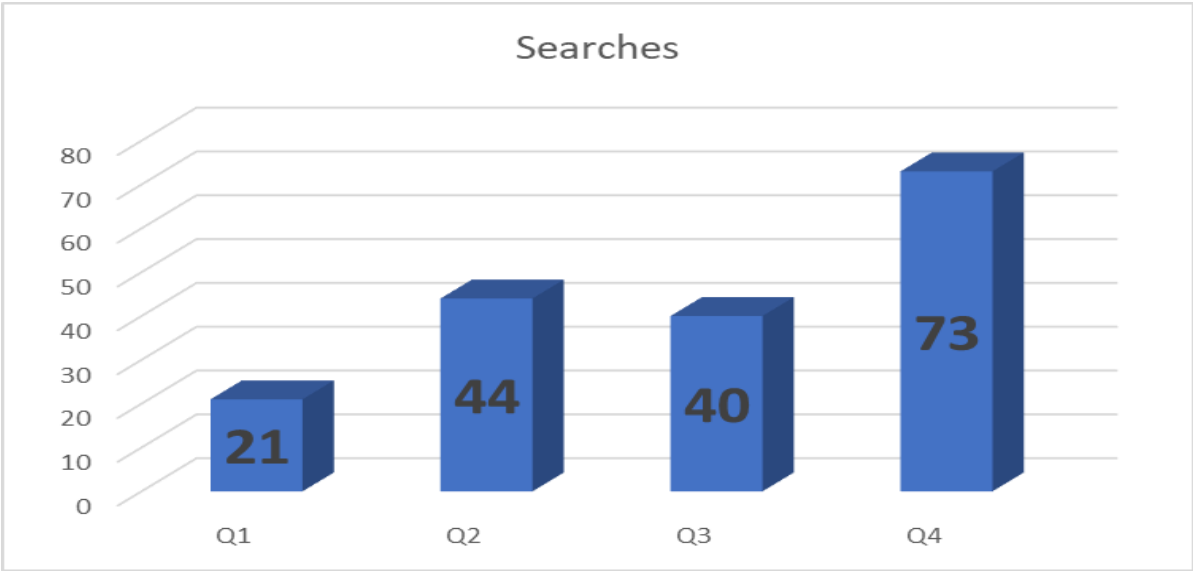
K-9 Sage and her partner/handler, Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) Christina Zwart, are housed at the Trident Center. Sage is primarily utilized for the purpose of detecting narcotics and firearms. In addition to being utilized for probation compliance searches and searches in the juvenile hall, Sage and DPO Zwart assist local law enforcement agencies with searches and service of search warrants. Sage and DPO Zwart also participate in community events for outreach purposes.



Programs and Services

# K-9 PROGRAM

## SAGE



Total Cost: \$157,535 (Handler, OT, Supplies)

Programs and Services

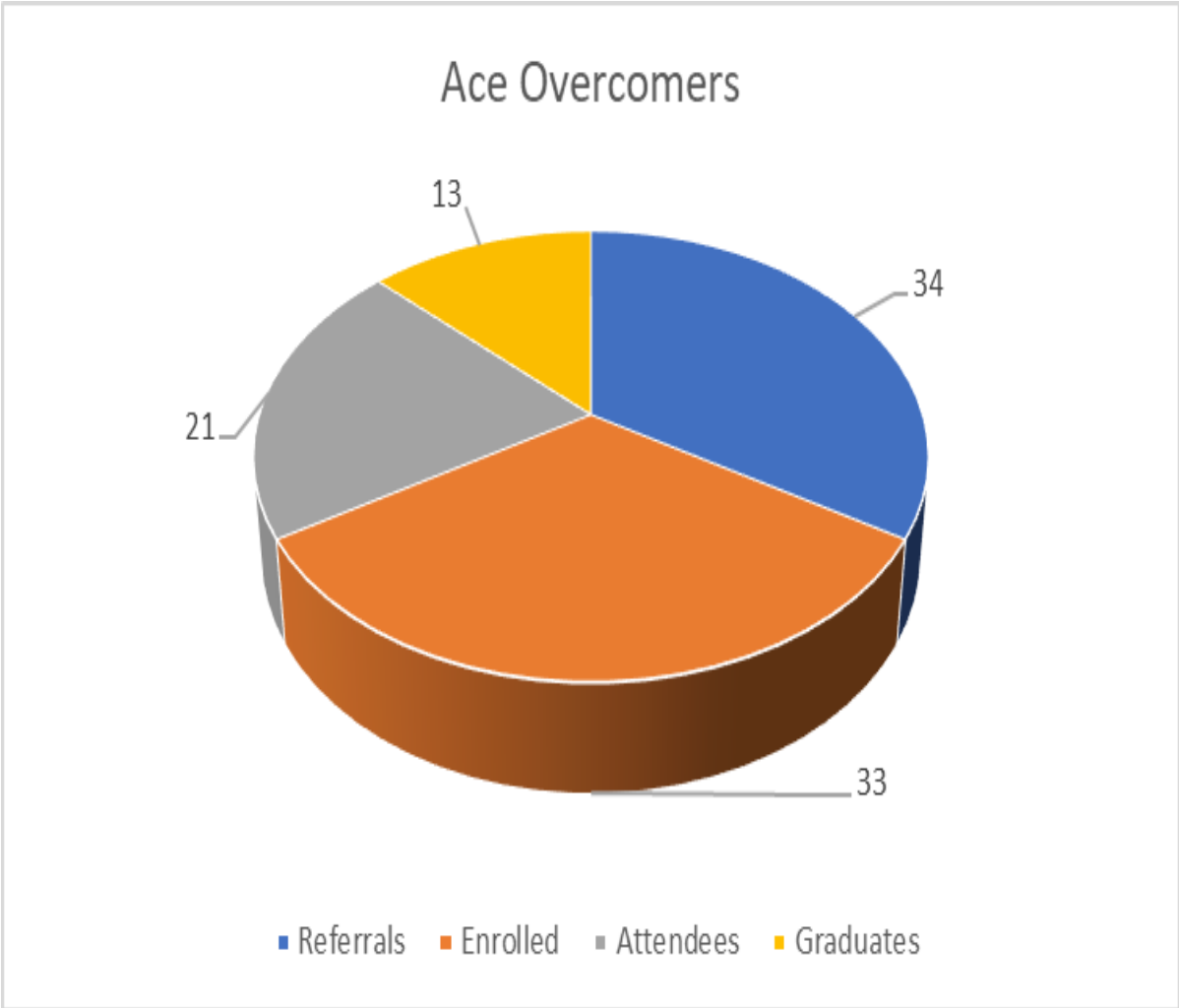
# ACE OVERCOMERS



ACE [Adverse Childhood Experience] Overcomers provides our clients with a 12-week faith-based curriculum designed to provide life changing lessons to help overcome addiction, depression, anxiety, and anger that is caused by stressors associated with childhood adversity and trauma.



# ACE OVERCOMERS



Total Cost: \$57,000

Programs and Services



# LIFELINE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Lifeline Community Development is a community-based organization that provides resources and empowerment to underserved communities within Merced County. Lifeline also organizes and hosts the monthly PACT (Probation/Parole and the Community Team) meetings to assist our clients who are re-entering our communities after a period of incarceration. These meetings are primarily focused on providing our clients with support by advising them of available resources within the community.



Programs and Services

# LIFELINE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## Community Resources



Services provided in the Loughborough, Winton and the Camelia Mobile Home Park include food drives, neighborhood beautification and community projects.



Total Cost: \$4,500

Programs and Services

# FY 2020/21 CCP Proposed Budget

<b>CCP Proposed Budget</b>			
<b>Department/Program</b>	<b>Original Allocation</b>	<b>Adjustment</b>	<b>Proposed Allocation</b>
<b>Sheriff</b>	-		
Operations	\$1,476,077	\$ -	\$1,476,077
Corrections	\$1,810,568	\$ -	\$1,810,568
<b>Total Sheriff</b>	<b>\$3,286,645</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$3,286,645</b>
<b>Probation</b>	-		
Post-Release Supervision	\$3,315,681	\$ -	\$3,315,681
AB 109 Data Collection	\$141,970	\$7,099	\$134,872
<b>Services &amp; Supplies</b>	<b>\$412,475</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$412,475</b>
BI-Day Reporting Center	\$849,000	\$153,000	\$696,000
BI-GPS	\$175,000	\$25,000	\$150,000
BI-Jail Re-Entry	\$595,000	\$138,849	\$456,151
Jail Utilization Review	\$79,596		\$79,596
Ace Overcomers	\$57,000		\$57,000
Lifeline CDC	\$4,500		\$4,500
MCOE - Phoenix Project	\$375,000	\$125,000	\$250,000
MCRM-Rescue Mission	\$100,000		\$100,000
<b>Total Probation</b>	<b>\$6,105,222</b>	<b>\$448,948</b>	<b>\$5,656,275</b>
<b>District Attorney</b>	-		
Victim Witness Advocate	\$88,703	\$ -	\$88,703
Deputy District Attorney	\$221,412	\$ -	\$221,412
Investigative Assistant	\$113,047	\$ -	\$113,047
<b>Total DA</b>	<b>\$423,162</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$423,162</b>
<b>Behavioral Health</b>	-		
Clinician	\$140,259	\$ -	\$140,259
<b>Public Defender</b>	-		
Deputy Public Defender	\$246,125	\$ -	\$246,125
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,201,413</b>	<b>\$448,948</b>	<b>\$9,752,466</b>

# Recommendations of the Executive Committee

## Fiscal Year 2020-2021

The current fiscal climate has led to a significant reduction in the AB 109 allocation for FY 2020/2021. Additionally, the annual growth payment was reduced.

- On June 24, 2020, the Executive Committee of the Community Corrections Partnership voted to reduce the original proposed allocations. In doing so, Probation was able to reduce contract costs, as well as a slight reduction in allocation for the data analyst assigned to Probation due to a grant that provides a 5% offset of salary.
- On July 22, 2020 the Executive Committee voted to approve the proposed modifications to the Strategies as reflected in this document. Program modifications were as follows:
  - ◆ Reduction in allocation for salary for data collection analyst *offset by extension of another contract.*
  - ◆ Closure of Day Reporting Center in Los Banos when the Los Banos Modular Project is fully functional.
  - ◆ Reduction in GPS contract with GEO.
  - ◆ Modification to original allocation for Re-Entry Program (no reduction made).
  - ◆ Reduction in contract with the Phoenix Project.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the required closure of businesses throughout the State of California, which results in loss of sales tax, it is recommended the Executive Committee reconvene at mid-year budget to ensure there has not been a significant change to projected allocations.

In addition, this year the Executive Committee commits to scrutinizing data outcomes to ensure we are maximizing the funds we receive to invest in criminal justice resources in evidence-based correctional sanctions and programs.